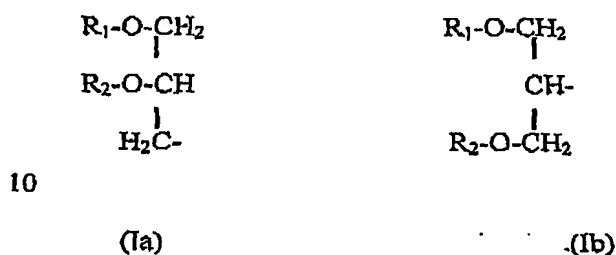


WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A synthetic molecule of formula I:



- 5 wherein A represents R, or a glyceride group having the formula Ia or Ib:



- 15 wherein R is H or a linear or branched alkyl of up to 40 carbon atoms; R₁ and R₂ are independently H, alkyl or acyl and wherein the alkyl or acyl groups are linear or branched having up to 40 carbon atoms;

B is selected from the group comprising phosphate, phosphonate, sulfonate, carbamate, and phosphothionate;

- 20 E comprises a spacer or linker group providing a linkage between groups B and D and is selected from -cyclohexyl-; and -CHR₃-CHR₄- wherein R₃ and R₄ are independently H, CH₂OH, CH₂-, or (CH(OH))_m-CH₂OH or CH((CHOH)_mCH₂OH)-; and wherein m=1 to 6;

- 25 D comprises at least one sugar moiety selected from the group comprising D-mannose, D-galactose, D-glucose, D-glucosamine, N-acetylglucosamine, and 6-deoxy-L-mannose, wherein when D is more than one sugar moiety, the sugar moiety may comprise a single chain of the same or different sugar moieties, or may comprise two or more separate sugar moieties or chains of sugar moieties attached to E at different sites;

with the proviso that when A is a diacyl or monacyl glyceride, R₃ and R₄ cannot both be H;
and with the proviso that when R₃ is H, R₄ cannot be CH₂OH.

2. A synthetic molecule as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is a linear or branched alkyl
5 of between 6 and 22 carbon atoms.
3. A synthetic molecule as claimed in claim 2, wherein R is a linear or branched alkyl
of between 10 and 20 carbon atoms.
- 10 4. A synthetic molecule as claimed in claim 3, wherein R is a linear or branched alkyl
of between 16 and 20 carbon atoms.
5. A synthetic molecule as claimed in any one of claims 1-4, wherein the alkyl or acyl
groups of R₁ and R₂ are linear or branched having between 6 and 22 carbon atoms.
- 15 6. A synthetic molecule as claimed in claim 5, wherein the alkyl or acyl groups of R₁
and R₂ are linear or branched having between 10 and 20 carbon atoms.
7. A synthetic molecule as claimed in claim 6, wherein the alkyl or acyl groups of R₁
20 and R₂ are linear or branched having between 16 and 20 carbon atoms.
8. A synthetic molecule according to claim 1, wherein D comprises a monosaccharide
or oligosaccharide chain of 2 to 12 α -1,2 and/or α -1,6 linked sugar moieties which are O-
linked to carbon atoms on spacer group E.
- 25 9. A synthetic molecule as claimed in claim 8, wherein D comprises one or more
monosaccharide or oligosaccharide chains of 2 to 6 sugar moieties.

17. A method of treating or preventing an inflammatory or immune cell-mediated disease or disorder comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I), as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to a patient in need thereof.

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18. A method as claimed in claim 17, which the patient is a human patient.

19. A method as claimed in claim 17 or 18, where the inflammatory or immune cell-mediated disease or disorder is asthma, allergic rhinitis, dermatitis, psoriasis, inflammatory
10 bowel disease including Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, systemic lupus erythematosus and atherosclerosis.

20. A process for preparing synthetic molecules of formula (I), as defined in claim 1, comprising the steps:

15 (I) modification of a benzylated allyl glycoside compound to form an intermediate by dihydroxylation of the double bond using a catalytic amount of osmium tetroxide and excess N-methyl morpholine-1-oxide to give a glycosyl glycerol as an intermediate for further modification;

20 (II) selective benzylation of the glycosyl glycerol intermediate to form a glycosyl glycerol unit with the 2° hydroxyl group protected as a benzoyl ester;

(III) glycosylation of the 1° hydroxyl group of the intermediate compound and selective removal of the benzoyl protecting group;

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(IV) phosphorylation of the 1° or 2° hydroxyl groups of the intermediate compound;

(V) removal of the benzyl protecting groups to form a compound of formula (I).

21. A process as claimed in claim 20, wherein step (II) is carried out by temporary
5 tritylation of the 1° hydroxyl group using trityl chloride and pyridine, addition of benzoyl
chloride and acidic hydrolysis of the trityl group.

22. A process as claimed in claim 20, wherein step (III) is carried out by an N-
10 iododisuccinimide trifluoromethanesulfonate promoted glycosylation reaction with a
perbenzylated glycosyl phosphite, or a trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate promoted
glycosylation reaction with a perbenzylated glycosyl trichloroimidate.

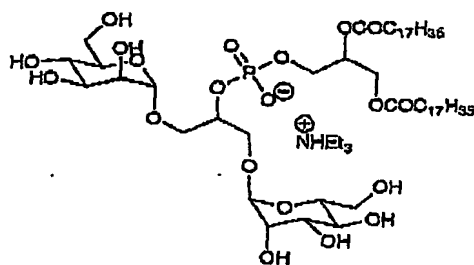
23. A process as claimed in claim 20, wherein step (IV) is carried out using:
(a) a 1,2-di-O-acyl-sn-glycero-3-H-phosphonate triethylammonium salt;
15 (b) *N,N*-diisopropyl 1,2-di-O-acyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphoramidite and subsequent
oxidation with *m*-chloroperoxybenzoic acid; and
(c) *N,N*-diisopropyl alkylphosphoramidite and subsequent oxidation with *m*-
chloroperoxybenzoic acid.

20 24. A process as claimed in claim 20, wherein step (V) is carried out by catalytic
hydrogenolysis over palladium on carbon at either atmospheric or 300psi pressure of
hydrogen.

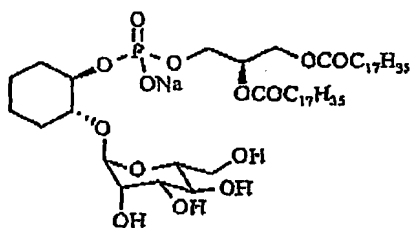
25. A process for preparing synthetic molecules of formula (I) as defined in claim 1,
25 comprising the steps

- (I) glycoslation of a benzylated mono-acetylated diol followed by deacetylation;
- (II) phosphorylation of the 1° or 2° hydroxyl groups of the compound of step (I);
- (III) removal of the benzyl protecting groups to form a compound of formula (I).

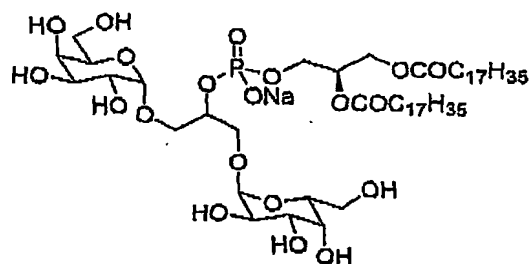
26. A process as claimed in claim 25, wherein step (I) is carried out by an N-iodosuccinimide trifluoromethanesulfonate promoted glycosylation reaction with a perbenzylated glycosyl phosphite, or a trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate promoted glycosylation reaction with a perbenzylated glycosyl trichloroimidate.
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27. A process as claimed in claim 25, wherein step (II) is carried out using:
- (a) a 1,2-di-O-acyl-sn-glycero-3-H-phosphonate triethylammonium salt;
 - (b) *N,N*-diisopropyl 1,2-di-O-acyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphoramidite and subsequent oxidation with *m*-chloroperoxybenzoic acid; and
 - 10 (c) *N,N*-diisopropyl alkylphosphoramidite and subsequent oxidation with *m*-chloroperoxybenzoic acid.
28. A process as claimed in claim 25, wherein step (III) is carried out by catalytic hydrogenolysis over palladium on carbon at either atmospheric or 300psi pressure of
- 15 hydrogen.
29. A compound of formula (I), as defined in claim 1, prepared by the process of claim 20 or 25.
- 20 30. A compound of formula (I), as defined in claim 1, comprising



31. A compound of formula (I), as defined in claim 1, comprising

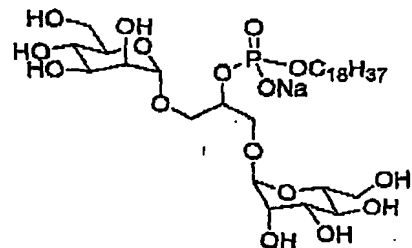


32. A compound of formula (I), as defined in claim 1, comprising



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33. A compound of formula (I), as defined in claim 1, comprising



- 10 34. A compound of formula (I), as defined in claim 1, comprising

